

camp-meeting ever held south of Tennessee. Mr. Dow had become somewhat familiar with the manner of holding camp-meetings, and had witnessed their great utility and usefulness in the middle and the western states, and he immediately urged the holding of one in close proximity to Washington. Mr. Blackman consented to and encouraged the proposal, but prospects at first were very forbidding. There was not time to fully circulate the appointment; the people had not time to adjust their home affairs and fix for camping; then, it had to be held about the first of December, quite too late in the season even in this mild climate. But Dow was persistent in his plea for a camp-meeting. Many predicted that he would get no campers, but about the last of November he united with Messrs. Blackman and Barnes in holding their first quarterly meeting on Clark's Creek, six or eight miles from Port Gibson. During the quarterly meeting Mr. Dow invited backsliders, who desired to be reinstated in the favor of God to come forward for the prayers of the church. An old backslider, who had once been happy in the love of God, came forward and fell upon his knees, followed by several others. The power of the Holy Ghost came upon the congregation, which was instantly succeeded by loud cries and shouts. Some of the bystanders showed hostility to such exercises, while others were awe-struck and felt that God was there. This prepared the way for the camp-meeting, though it was to be held at a distance of thirty miles from this place.

Randall Gibson with his family, and several other leading families, making in all about thirty persons, set out forthwith to the camp-meeting. They were favored with good weather, considering the lateness of the season; and though some of the sons of Belial tried in various ways to disturb the exercises of the meeting, their efforts were fruitless, and good behavior under the prudent leadership of Mr. Blackman generally prevailed. About fifty persons were awakened and five professed to find peace with